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www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/birkholz/

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Sen. Birkholz encouraging residents to submit designs for Watercraft Decal

LANSING –Sen. Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township, announced that today is the start of the 2004 Watercraft Decal Design Challenge. Birkholz encourages residents of the 24th Senate District to submit design ideas.

“Allowing residents to submit their own designs for the decal is a great alternative to the state designing one for them,” Birkholz said. “This allows Michigan residents to express their creativity and show support for our water resources.”

Public Acts 293 and 294 established the new watercraft decal and the Great Lakes Protection Fund. The GLPF is designed to provide funding and greater awareness of efforts to eradicate aquatic nuisance species in Michigan’s waters and to conduct general research on Great Lakes protection issues.

“Similar to our fund-raising license plates, the new watercraft decals will help raise funds for a good cause,” Birkholz said. “Protecting our waters is a top priority if we want to continue attracting visitors to Michigan. Boaters, fishermen and other water enthusiasts will find this is a great way to keep our waters healthy for humans and wildlife.”

The winning decal design will be selected by a judging panel led by Birkholz, Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, Rep. David Palsrok, R-Manistee, and Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land.

The decals will be available to anyone in Michigan beginning Oct. 1. The purchase price of the decal will be \$35, with \$25 going to the Great Lakes Protection Fund and \$10 for administrative costs. When finished, the decorative decal will be 3 inches square and may be placed on cars, trucks, trailers or other vehicles. The decal does not replace the required watercraft registration or identification stickers.

Proceeds from the sale of the decal will be used to fund education and research to help eliminate aquatic nuisance species such as, zebra mussels, from Michigan’s waters.

Entry forms to submit a design are available on the Secretary of State’s Web site at www.michigan.gov/sos and at every Secretary of State branch office. Entry forms must be received or postmarked by midnight June 16. Mail design submissions and entry forms to 2004 Watercraft Decal Design Challenge, Attn: James Fackler, Michigan Secretary of State, Treasury Bldg., 4th floor, 430 West Allegan, Lansing, MI, 48918.

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Pictures of Sen. Birkholz announcing the contest at a press conference are available for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire